FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBER, SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER

SHRI M. A BABY (KERALA): Madam, may I be permitted to make a special reference to the fact that one of the distinguished Members of our House, Shri P, Shiv Shanker Ji, along with a few others, is retiring tomorrow. But in Shri Shiv Shanker Ji's case, I understand that he would be leaving by a noon flight. Therefore, I would like to say that I have seen the most distinguished and remarkable contribution of Shri Shiv Shanker Ji in different capacities during my short tenure in this House, as a Member of this House, as the Leader of the opposition and in different capacities.

Madam, it is said that the other House is throwing heat whereas our House is throwing light. But I had occasions to listen to and read certain adverse remarks about our House in the recent past that we are not rising to the occasion. We remember the exalted contributions, distinguished contributions made by Shri Shiv Shanker Ji. New Members like me always considered the equanimity with which Shri Shiv Shanker Ji used to respond to most complex situations on vexed matters, as a model to follow. I don't want to take much of your time. I don'tknowwhetherwe will have the privilege of having Shiv Shanker Ji again in this House or, perhaps, in the other House so that his great expertise and experience can be at the service of the nation.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTHAM (Uttar Pradesh): We can have him if he changes to this side.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): Shiv Shanker Ji is not a person who will change parties and come to your side, to the BJP; he will definitely not. He will remain in Congress, die in Congress. He is a Congressman.

SHRI M. A BABY: All of us would be watching with anxiety in what capacity Shri Shiv Shanker Ji will continue to serve our nation. In any case, I am sure that the House will join me in wishing him all success in his future life and in the service of our country.

With these words, Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): सदर साहिबा।

उपसभापति: एक मिनट, सिकन्दर साहब।

Actually, tomorrow, the Chairman will, I hope, give a send-off to the three Members. As Mr. Baby has said, Mr. Shiv Shanker is leaving today and he won't be here tomorrow and. I am sure he will be paid a lot of tributes in his absence....

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): *In absentia!*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN...which will be part of the record.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: एक-एक, दो-दो मिनट से ज्यादा नहीं।

†[شری سکندر بخت: ایک ایک، دو - دو منٹ سے زیادہ نہیں۔]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not everybody. We do not want to deviate from the practice.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: सदर साहिबा, वह शायद लौटकर न आएं लंच के लिए...(व्यवधान) सदर साहिबा, मैं बहुत शुक्रगुजार हूं बेबी साहब का कि उन्होंने इस सवाल को उठाया और मैं समझ रहा था कि शायद लंच आवर के बाद तशरीफ लायेंगे तो बाकायदा कुछ कहा जाएगा। बेबी साहब ने जो कुछ कहा है उन तमाम खूलफाज़ के साथ अपने आपको वाबस्ता करने में फख्र महसूस होता है।

कुछ तो हो जाते हैं उलफत में जुनूं के आसार,
और कुछ लोग भी दीवाना बना देते हैं।

कुछ तो ऐसा जुल्म हो रहा है कि हमारी वज़ादारियां सियासी एक्टीविटीज़ में मुसलसल कम

†[شری سکندر بخت "مداخلت" ... "مدھیہ پردیش" صدر صاحبہ - وہ شاید لوٹ کر نہ آئیں لنچ کے لیئے ... صدر صاحبہ میں بہت شکر گزار ہوں بے بی صاحب کا کہ انھوں نے اس سوال کو اٹھایا اور میں]

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script

हो रही है, पर कुछ लोगों की वजह से कुछ वज़ादारियां सियासी रिश्तों में, सियासी फंक्शंस में कायम है। शिव शंकर जी इस सदन की ज़ीनत रहे। ज़ीनत खाली बैठे रहने से नहीं रहे, बल्कि ठोस माकूल, शरीफाना, ज़हीन किस्म का कंट्रीब्यूशन उनका रहा है। शिव शंकर जी को लूज़ करके मैं समझता हूं कि यह सदन गुरबत की तरफ बढ़ रहा है। शिव शंकर जी जैसे साथियों का इस हाउस में रहना इस हाउस की कद्र-व-कीमत के लिए जरूरी समझा जाता है। मैं जानता नहीं कि इनकी वापसी का कोई तरीका है, नहीं है, लेकिन सचमुच शिव शंकर जी के जाने के बाद यह हाउस गरीबतर रहेगा।

मैं दुआ करता हूं, जहां भी रहें खुश रहें। वह इस मुल्क का सरमाया है। जहां भी होंगे वह इस मुल्क के काम आ सकेंगे, ऐसी मेरी दुआ है।

[سمجھ رہا تھا کہ شاید لنچ آور کے بعد تشریف لائیں گے تو باقاعدہ کچھ کہا جائے گا۔ بے بی صاحب نے جو کچھ کہا ہے ان تمام الفاظ کے ساتھ اپنے آپ کو وابستہ کرنے میں فخر محسوس ہوتا ہے ۔ تو

کچھ تو ہو جاتے ہیں الفت میں جنوں کے آثار
اور کچھ لوگ بھی دیوانہ بنا دیتے ہیں

کچھ تو ایسا ظلم ہو رہا ہے کہ ہماری وضع داریاں سیاسی ایکٹی وٹیز میں مسلسل کم ہو رہی ہیں پر کچھ لوگوں کی وجہ سے کچھ وضع داریاں سیاسی رشتوں میں، سیاسی فنکشنس میں قائم ہے شیو شنکر جی اس سدن کی زینت رہے ۔ زینت خالی بیٹھے رہنے سے نہیں رہے بلکہ ٹھوس معقول، شریفانہ، ذہین قسم کا کنٹری بیوشن اُن کا رہا ہے شیو شنکر جی کو لوز کر کے میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ سدن غربت کی طرف بڑھ رہا ہے ۔ شیو شنکر جی جیسے ساتھیوں کا اس ہاؤس میں رہنا اس ہاؤس کی قدر و قیمت کے لیے ضروری سمجھا جاتا ہے ۔ میں جانتا نہیں کہ اُن کی واپسی کا کوئی طریقہ ہے ۔ نہیں ہے ۔ لیکن سچ مچ شیو شنکر جی کے جانے کے بعد یہ ہاؤس غریب تر رہے گا ۔ میں دعا کرتا ہوں جہاں بھی رہے خوش رہیں ۔ وہ اس ملک کا سرمایہ ہیں ۔ جہاں بھی ہوں گے وہ اس ملک کے کام آ سکیں گے ۔ ایسی میری دعا ہے ۔ شکریہ ۔]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I would like to associate myself whole heartedly with the sentiments expressed both by Mr. Baby and the Leader of the Opposition. I have known Shiv Shankerji long before he became a parliamentarian and a Minister here and he had the unique distinction of being both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition also. He brought his legal expertise and vast experience to bear on the proceedings of the House. We will miss a seasoned parliamentarian and a sober analyst in this House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Madam, I will cherish the memory of my association with Shiv Shankerji both as a colleague in this House and personally also and I think it is one of the most ennobling experiences that I had in this House to come close to him. Shiv Shankerji was an epitome of dignity and wisdom, wherever he sat, either at the left of the House or at the right of the House—and, of late, at the centre of the House—and we only hope that he would be able to come back to Parliament *as* soon as it will be possible. Thank you.

SHRI N. E BALARAM (Kerala): Madam, I completely associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my previous speakers. I have known Shiv Shankerji since long and I like his free thinking, whether he was on this side or on that. That was one thing which attracted me towards him. About his contributions, I dp not want to repeat what has been said. I have seen him sitting on the Opposition benches and I

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

have seen him as Minister sitting on this side and his contribution and services were wonderful. I hope everybody will respect his contribution and services and I hope he will join us again.

I wish him all success in his future life and in everything.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You want to say something, Mr. Manmohan Singh ?

TOE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, the Leader of the House is not here. And I am sure when (he proper occasion arises, he will speak on behalf of our Government. But speaking for myself, I wish to fully associate myself with the sentiments and the tributes that have been paid to our dear friend this afternoon. I am new to Parliament but I have known Shri Shiv Shan-kerji for over 40 years. We were students together in Amritsar. And it has been for me a great privilege to know him. And in the last 14 years that he has held very distinguished portfolios at the Centre, he has distinguished himself in all those capacities. Whether in the Opposition or in the Government, he has been a model of a Parliamentarian—moderate in the use of language, but full of wisdom and knowledge. Shri Shiv Shanker possesses these rare qualities. I am sure we will all miss him in this House. And I do hope that this is only a short interlude, and that he has very many productive years of service to the nation. And I join my other colleagues in wishing him well.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : As I said at the outset, tomorrow, officially the Chairman wBl perhaps, say farewell to the retiring Members.-

AN HON. MEMBER: Is he not going to be here tomorrow?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow he is not going to be here. That is why Mr. Baby mentioned it today, and you all have had jour say about Mr. Shiv Shanker. And only when somebody is leaving we realise what close association we had and how we had worked together. And many memories come down before our mind as to how he had worked. As far as I am concerned, since I came to this House in 1980,1 had an opportunity to see Mr. Shiv Shanker in the beginning as a Member of Parliament Then I became the Deputy Chairman, I presided over the House when he was a Minister. Then he became the Leader of this House, and as the Deputy Chairman, I had to deal with him. And then again he came down and became my colleague in the opposition because my seat is with the Leader of the Opposition. So, he was occupying the place of Mr. Sikander Bakht. He was my bench mate, as it is being said. And in this association of working with him, I think, I found him giving all sound advice, in understanding the viewpoint, in running this House because, apart from being a very good Minister, a legal luminary, the way he had functioned in managing this House, both as the Leader of the House as well as the Leader of the Opposition, with responsibility, I have the first-hand information. And I am sure I am going to miss him in this House because, as Mr. Yashwant Sinha said, from the right to the left and to the centre, your contributions in the House, Mr. Shiv Shanker, have always been very good. And I hope you will come back to this House or that House. But wherever you are, your contribution will remain important for the people, for the country. I wish you all the best. And we hope that those who leave us should come back because we want them to come back to our House, we do not want them to defect to the other House.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Gujarat): Madam, words fail me to express my gratefulness firstly because the hon. Members were so kind that not withstanding the fact that the last day is tomorrow, they have been so kind to accommodate me today itself because I am leaving the city of Delhi today, and secondly because yourself and the hon. Members were so kind to extend even the lunch hour to have this reference made towards me.

Hearing the compliments from the hon. Members, I am constrained to say that it is a rare privilege for a man to have nice obituary references _

AN HON. MEMBER: Obituary?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Valedictory or farewell references.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER..... during his life time itself. I must say that my 15 years of career in Parliament with a brief break between December 1984 and May 1985 has been notable, not because of me but because of my association with a large number of friends in this House and the other House whose affection and goodwill I enjoyed all these years. But for their kindness, I doubt whether I could carve out a niche for myself in the annals of this Parliamentary career.

I must frankly confess that I have nothing to boast of. I started my life from the road. I have neither to boast of my parentage nor my society nor my associations except the very hard work 1 did in my career starting from—and I am not ashamed to say that—a labourer, a shoe-shiner, a newspaper vendor, a fruit vendor and ultimately ending up in the career of a lawyer. My life is more, perhaps, a fiction than a fact. And it should be said to the credit of that great lady, Shrimati Gandhi who in spite of my unwillingness to enter into politics, forced me in and I take this opportunity to pay my debt of gratitude to her. But for her, perhaps I would not have come into politics and would not have been able to attain this status. In spite of my unwillingness when I said that I would not contest for Pariament, she said—and I would like to repeat so that it goes on record—"Mr Shiv Shanker, at one point of time you were prepared to lay down your life for me. Are you not prepared to contest the election for me?" That made me to contest the election. She had been so kind merely because I had been her lawyer. I looked after her cases. Therefore, perhaps, she was so kind that she made me the Cabinet Minister straightway in 1980, perhaps to the chagrin of many.

I must also frankly say at this stage, and I take this opportunity to thank the second man, Dr. Chenna Reddy who was then the Chief Minister of my State. If he were not to agree for my nomination, possibly I would not have contested. But he did. Rajivji was extraordinarily kind to me. Notwithstanding the fact that I lost the election in 1984, he was so kind that he told me that I would have to be there to aid and advise, and within a few months he saw to it that I into the Parliament from a different State, that is. Gujarat... a rare privilege which he conferred on me, which has continued till today. This makes me pay my tributes to the people of Gujarat, in general, and to the legislators of Gujarat, in particular, who have been kind enough to accommodate me all these years as their Member in this House.

Now, but for these two personalities, Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi perhaps, I would not have been what I am today. However, I must tell you, Madam, that I do not consider this,as if it is the end of the road. I have not as yet, kicked the bucket. I will continue in my own way to serve the country, not by getting back to the profession to which I belong, but continuing as a politician to serve the cause of the people. It is verily said—I will repeat that without, for a moment hurting anyone; it is a saying in English—in the case of a woman that she remembers her first love. It is said in the case of a man that he remembers his last love. I consider my last love as politics and I will continue to be in politics.

I am greatful to the Members of the opposition and also the Members of my party. That I have been able to earn the goodwill of the Members of the opposition is a matter of pride for me. The Members of my party, of course, had been very kind. I would not like to blame anyone for my exit I must make the position absolutely clear. To be very frank. Madam, I would like to go on record—I have no grievance against my high command because I have never asked for a ticket from them. If I had asked for a ticket and if they had refused it, perhaps, I could have had a grievance, but I did not ask. I must confess. Madam, that I had been a guest of this State, Gujaral, for more time than necessary. I should not be a guest of this State any longer. Rather, I should get back to my State. This request I had been making for some time. That was not considered that I should get back to my State, for various reasons which I will not go into. If I was not considered, that was, perhaps, purely my own making. I have nothing against anyone.

I express my very sincere thanks and gratefulness to the Members of my party who had been very co-operative with *me* and, particularly, to (he leaders of the opposition and Members of the opposition, who had been very kind to me that whenever I spoke in the House, whether as the Leaders of the House or as a Minister or as the Leader of the Opposition or as leader of my party, they gave me an attentive hearing. That is the greatest satisfaction to me. Once again, I sxpress my gratefulness to all the Members. I take leave of you, but I shall be with you. This is my assurance. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Shiv Shankerji, you mentioned that our tribute is obituary. Perhaps, this is the only obituary in history where a Member is resurrected again. Let us hope that for you.

Now, the House is adjourned for lunch, Tor one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch, at two of the clock.